

**Climate Action Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**March 24, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
Brookline Town Hall, Room 111**

Committee Members Present: Keske Toyofuku, Neil Wishinsky, Ben Chang, Alan Leviton, Werner Lohe, Pat Maher, Linda Olson Pehlke, Deborah Rivers, Celinda Shannon, Ali Tali

Staff: Lara Curtis Hayes, Senior Planner

Others Present: Doron Bracha

Call to order and approval of minutes

Keske called the meeting to order, and asked for committee members to review the minutes. Deborah Rivers asked for minutes that are sent out at the last minute to be in PDF form if at all possible. Neil Wishinsky said he had one minor typo change.

Werner Lohe motioned to approve the minutes, as amended, from February 24, 2014.

Ben Chang seconded the motion.

Upon a vote, the ***motion passed unanimously (9-0)***.

Preparation for presenting new charge to Board of Selectmen

Neil Wishinsky said there is a lot on the Board of Selectmen's agenda with Town Meeting coming up, so it could be difficult to get before the Board soon. Neil said he does not think the new charge will be controversial. Keske asked if anyone feels the charge should happen sooner rather than later. Neil said he would let the committee know when he thought it was a good time.

Neil said Deborah still needs to be officially appointed to the CAC as the Brookline Greenspace rep.

Review of warrant articles for Spring Town Meeting

Lara Curtis Hayes said of all of the warrant articles this spring, she would like the CAC to consider whether they want to have a public hearing on articles 29 and/or 32.

Celinda Shannon said the Chamber of Commerce has voted no action on article 29 as it excludes a number of businesses that contribute a lot to the community. Celinda said the Chamber would like to come back in the fall with a more inclusive article. Celinda said the Chamber felt this is an important concept to at least continue discussing.

Deborah Rivers said depending on how a local business sources its products, it may not matter much with regard to climate mitigation. Deborah said the CAC might want to be more neutral on this since the climate impacts are not that clear.

Neil Wishinsky ***motioned for the committee to not take a position on Article 29.***

Alan Leviton ***seconded*** the motion.

Linda Olson Pehlke said from a community resiliency point of view, it's important to support local businesses. The committee discussed whether or not they should take a position on this article, and whether or not the climate impacts are clear.

Upon a vote, the motion **passed** (9-0, Linda Olson Pehlke abstaining)

Lara Curtis Hayes said the other article the CAC may want to consider is Article 32, a resolution encouraging divestment from fossil fuels. Lara said she is not very familiar with this article, but the CAC is mentioned specifically in the "whereas" section. Werner Lohe reviewed some of the happenings at the state level regarding divestment, and said he thinks the CAC should really consider supporting the article. Lohe said some research shows that the return doesn't really change, but the risk profile is altered somewhat. Lohe reviewed a number of aspects about divestment and the movement by 350.org and other organizations.

Neil Wishinsky proposed the committee have a public hearing on article 32 at the next meeting on April 28th.

Linda Olson Pehlke asked if the committee should have a public hearing on the Brookline Place articles. Lara said the committee could discuss that possibility. Linda reviewed the Brookline Place Advisory Committee's work, and the changes in the development proposal. Neil and Linda discussed the proposal, and some of the controversies, such as the height of the garage and the number of parking spaces, as well as the second competing Brookline Place zoning article that was submitted. The committee continued to discuss the article in detail, including responding to some committee members' questions.

Werner Lohe said it is great that Neil and Linda were on the BPLAC, but that the article seems quite detailed and addresses a number of issues, not just transit-oriented development. The committee decided not to hold a public hearing on the Brookline Place articles.

Discussion of planning an "Introduction to Resiliency Planning" session for Town Departments

Deborah Rivers said she went to the recent NESEA conference, and she wants to organize a workshop for Town staff with a pro-bono 90 minute session with Jim Newman. Lara said she thinks the session is a good idea, but that there should be leadership at upper levels to ensure that town staff attends the workshop. Neil said we should have a description of what the session would entail. Rivers said she would work with Jim to develop a session description. Pat Maher said it would be good for Don Siebert from Public Health to attend.

Werner Lohe suggested more groundwork with staff be done to ensure they are interested and aware of mitigation issues. Lara reviewed the upcoming Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting. Keske asked Deborah to develop a summary of what the session will cover and distribute to Neil and Lara to pass along to town staff.

Updates on current committee projects

Neil Wishinsky updated the committee on Hubway. Neil said New Balance is sponsoring the Hubway program, and he hopes that with the sponsorship proceeds, the grant and membership fees, we'll be able to add another station. Linda asked if the earmarks for a new Hubway station at Brookline Place

were taken out of the agreement. Neil said yes, but he's hoping that some of the mitigation money from the project will be used for a Hubway station, as well as other improvements. Neil said he would like a few more stations in Brookline, as well as work with Boston to site more stations near Brookline borders.

Neil said the operating contract was awarded to Alta, who was also the previous operator. Neil said the supplier of the bikes is in bankruptcy, which doesn't affect us right now, until we want to buy new bikes.

Discussion of future committee projects

Keske Toyofuku reviewed the consolidated list of projects for the committee.

Neil Wishinsky discussed a possible warrant article to reduce residential parking requirements in the fall, and said that the committee should probably begin working on it before the summer. Werner Lohe said there are a number of people interested in this, and it will take a lot of work to get everyone organized. Neil said he can begin talking with Ken Goldstein and see if he is interested in partnering with us on this issue. Alan Leviton asked how we would get more votes than the last time. Linda said the vote in the fall was recorded, so we know who we need to reach out to. Alan said this committee could begin educating themselves on the past article. Neil suggested the committee start doing that around June.

Deborah said she is writing an article in the PLACE newsletter regarding open space preservation in Brookline. Linda said the board of GreenSpace Alliance is considering drafting a warrant article to improve the protection of town open space. Deborah said that in Boston commercial developments over 50,000 s.f. are required to meet certain sustainability standards.

Keske asked Pat Maher if anything should be added to the cycling and walking initiatives project. Pat Maher said she is meeting with others to discuss ways to make biking safer and easier for the public.

Alan Leviton said CAB board members will meet on April 7th to discuss projects that CAB would like to sponsor, so that by the April 28th meeting, there will be some more direction from CAB and possible opportunities to partner on projects.

Keske introduced Doron Bracha, who has reached out to Lara about the committee. Doron said he has been a Brookline resident for 10 years, and he is really interested in school sustainability.

Keske continued to review the draft project list and discuss the projects in relative detail. Alan Leviton discussed condos and condo culture, and how that relates to their willingness to make building changes and improvements.

Keske said he would like to talk about the schools program, likely at next month's meeting.

Updates from staff

Lara Curtis Hayes said the main thing she wants to let everyone know is that Broadway, the town's solar developer, has closed down, and its solar division is looking to partner with Nexamp to continue with the MAPC projects. Lara Curtis Hayes said all staff updates are written down and circulated beforehand.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is April 28th.